

*King Lear*

Edmund and Edgar

**EDGAR**

What's he that speaks for Edmund Earl of Gloucester?

**EDMUND**

Himself: what say'st thou to him?

**EDGAR**

Draw thy sword, I protest, thou art a traitor;  
False to thy gods, thy brother, and thy father;  
And, from the extremest upward of thy head  
To the descent and dust below thy foot,  
A most toad-spotted traitor. Say thou 'No,'  
This sword, this arm, and my best spirits, are bent  
To prove upon thy heart, whereto I speak, Thou liest.

**EDMUND**

In wisdom I should ask thy name;  
But, since thy outside looks so fair and warlike,  
Back do I toss these treasons to thy head;  
With the hell-hated lie o'erwhelm thy heart;  
Which, for they yet glance by and scarcely bruise,  
This sword of mine shall give them instant way,  
Where they shall rest for ever. Trumpets, speak!

*[Alarums. They fight. EDMUND falls]*

**EDMUND**

'Tis past, and so am I. But what art thou? If thou'rt noble,  
I do forgive thee.

**EDGAR**

Let's exchange charity.  
I am no less in blood than thou art, Edmund;  
If more, the more thou hast wrong'd me.  
My name is Edgar, and thy father's son.  
The gods are just, and of our pleasant vices  
Make instruments to plague us.

**EDMUND**

Thou hast spoken right, 'tis true;  
The wheel is come full circle: I pant for life...

*[EDMUND DIES]*